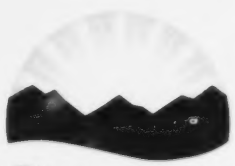
BUDGET 2006

Ministry of
Environment including
Environmental Assessment Office

2006/07 – 2008/09
SERVICE PLAN



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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

I am pleased to present the joint 2006/07 - 2008/09 Service Plans of the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). In these plans, you will see how we are addressing our broader mandate and increased responsibilities for effective and responsive environmental management.

We are acting to deliver on the government's goal to lead the world in sustainable environmental management. To do this, we have realigned the Ministry of Environment, while ensuring the EAO retains its important role as a neutral agency.

The EAO delivers a predictable, open and timely process that considers the environmental, economic, social, health and heritage aspects of projects that help to promote the environmental goals set by our government, while fostering a strong and vibrant economy. During project reviews, the EAO engages First Nations in consultation about asserted and established rights and title that might be impacted by the project, and, where appropriate, identifies accommodation strategies.

The ministry has refocused its vision, mission and goals to better address government priorities and provide responsive client service. We are continuing with the great progress we have made in revising and refining regulations. We will be developing new legislation that is responsive to current realities and resource use and at the same time protects our rich environmental legacy.

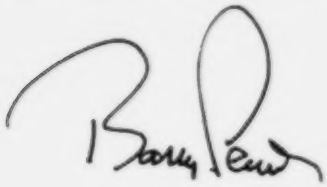
To be successful, we have increased our emphasis on fostering stewardship and collaborative approaches to environmental management. This approach will increase our capacity to ensure that the quality of water, land and air is maintained, and that we have a greater role in the stewardship of ocean and marine resources. We are expanding our relationships with governments (federal, provincial, local), First Nations, the private sector, communities and citizens.

To increase collaboration and awareness, we are encouraging information sharing, education and best practices. We are promoting healthy environmental lifestyle choices by individuals and best environmental practices and decision-making by communities, industry and all levels of government. We are working to facilitate the collection of scientific information for informed decision-making. We are providing more education opportunities to encourage citizens to become better environmental stewards and more guidance on compliance with environmental regulations. These approaches will enable us to provide greater client service, which is vital for meeting the needs of all British Columbians, and to ensure a healthy environment.

We continue to protect and manage a wide variety of outstanding parks and protected lands, which represent the best natural features and diverse wilderness environment of the province. We are increasing the involvement of First Nations in the allocation of natural resources through Collaborative Management Agreements in parks and protected areas.

A healthy environment is critical to promoting a healthy lifestyle. To enhance health and an awareness of our natural environment, we are developing new ways to attract greater participation in outdoor activities. We are continuing to develop provincial-wide opportunities for a diversity of high quality and safe outdoor recreation. Providing memorable outdoor opportunities and effective air, water and land management will encourage investment, draw tourists and create jobs. Our support of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games provides us with an opportunity to showcase our world class parks and work with partners and communities to further bolster our growing provincial economy and safeguard our natural legacy for future generations.

The Ministry of Environment's 2006/07 - 2008/09 Service Plan and the Environmental Assessment Office's 2006/07 - 2008/09 Service Plan were prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of February 8, 2006 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.



Honourable Barry Penner
Minister of Environment and
Minister Responsible for Water Stewardship and Sustainable Communities

February 8, 2006

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Ministry Overview

Purpose of Ministry

As part of a government-wide reorganization in 2005, the Ministry of Environment was re-established and redefined. The ministry assumed responsibilities from the former Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and some of the functions from the former Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management/Land and Water BC (e.g., Water Stewardship, Conservation Data Centre), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (e.g., Marine Fisheries). The Environmental Assessment Office also became a responsibility of the Minister of Environment.

The ministry provides leadership in environmental management through innovative legislation and programs, compliance activities and shared stewardship initiatives. The mandate of the ministry is to protect human health and safety, and maintain and restore the diversity of native species, ecosystems and habitats. Through partnerships across government, and with First Nations, the private sector and communities, we work to enhance the protection and stewardship of water and air resources, advance sustainable use of environmental resources, and provide exceptional outdoor park and wildlife services and opportunities.

Our programs and services are delivered through six core business areas, seven divisions and more than 1,300 skilled and experienced staff located in all regions of the province. We participate in cross-government initiatives with partners such as, but not limited to, Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Our relationships with these partners are crucial to our success in delivering our mandate. The ministry continues to build effective relationships with other government bodies, First Nations, industries, associations, communities and environmental groups. Our clients are all citizens of British Columbia, and include our staff — we serve them in their communities, in their businesses and in their workplace.

Legislative Mandate

Legislation is the foundation upon which government delivers its programs and services. Significant legislation that drives the ministry's mission and programs includes:

- the *Environmental Assessment Act*
- the *Environmental Management Act*
- the *Integrated Pest Management Act*
- the *Park Act*
- the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*
- the *Water Act*
- the *Wildlife Act*

For a complete list of legislation administered by the ministry, see Appendix 1.

Vision, Mission and Values

To reflect its broader mandate and increased responsibilities, the ministry has refocused its vision, mission and values.

Vision

A clean, healthy and naturally diverse environment.

Mission

Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Values

We believe in working with our clients, each other and our partners in a way that reflects:

- *Service* — We provide service that is responsive, adaptive and based on client needs.
- *Objectivity* — We perform our work in a professional manner that promotes an objective approach to environmental management.
- *Integrity* — We act in a truthful, ethical and transparent manner.
- *Excellence* — We encourage innovation, creative solutions and a culture of continuous learning.
- *Accountability* — We are efficient and effective in our work and accountable to the Legislature and the public for results.
- *Wellness* — We believe in a working environment that promotes health and well-being, and allows staff to achieve their highest potential.

Strategic Context

The context in which the ministry provides its services and programs is changing more rapidly than ever before. Trends and events within British Columbia and beyond our borders are intricately linked to the achievement of ministry objectives. These major trends, and the internal and external environment in which the ministry operates, pose challenges as well as opportunities for the ministry.

Ministry Priorities

The ministry is responsible for assisting the government in delivering on its Five Great Goals (see Linkage to the Five Great Goals in the Overview section). Thus, government priorities inform the context in which the ministry defines its own goals, objectives and strategies.

Some of the priorities the ministry must address over the coming year include providing leadership in best environmental practices, supporting exemplary fisheries management, and achieving the best air and water quality. Public expectations are high. There is an ever-increasing need for cooperation across agencies, and between all levels of government. However, success in addressing these priorities lies not only in the delivery of effective public policy, programs and legislation but also in the willingness of all citizens, corporate and private, to embrace more sustainable approaches to land and resource use and to make healthy lifestyle choices.

An evolving business model. The ministry's evolving business model includes developing and adopting outcome-based performance standards that are less prescriptive, based on results and designed to increase compliance with environmental regulations. This requires that the ministry focus its resources not only on transitioning to the new model but also on ensuring effective environmental protection and stewardship.

Effective partnerships with First Nations. First Nations are an important constituency both as individuals concerned with the environment and as landowners and economic proponents with significant development proposals. The ministry has a lawful obligation to consult and accommodate First Nations interests in a manner consistent with provincial policy and the rulings of the courts. The ministry is committed to developing effective partnerships with First Nations, resulting in increased economic certainty for Crown lands and resources. Currently, the ministry is actively supporting and developing Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Agreements. The development of these agreements will involve an increasing number of the province's First Nations.

Strategies for an aging workforce. British Columbia, like all of Canada and much of the western world, has an aging population and an aging workforce. Twenty-four per cent of ministry staff will be eligible to retire by 2010. The ministry is developing a People

Strategy that will address "people planning" issues over the years to come. However, like the rest of the country, B.C. will be challenged to meet this ever-increasing human resource need, which is already being felt within some specializations and some geographic jurisdictions. To inspire a new generation of conservationists for the 21st century, the ministry has implemented the B.C. Conservation Corps program with the assistance of the B.C. Conservation Foundation. Projects sponsored through this program offer work experience for students and recent graduates and include opportunities for skill development and mentoring under the guidance of senior ministry staff.

The ministry must also consider and adapt to environmental, economic and societal factors, many of which are outside its influence. Selected trends and examples of how the ministry is addressing the issues they raise are presented below.

Environmental Trends and Issues

Population and urban growth. Rapid population and urban growth can significantly impact air, land and water quality, especially in southern regions of the province. A major factor driving population growth is migration: 61% of projected growth is from people coming to B.C. from other countries and 36% from other provinces. The remaining three per cent results from people being born here.[1] Population increases put pressure on communities, resulting in greater water, land and energy consumption, and discharge of pollutants into the environment. The ministry is responding to these challenges through its continued work to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and sustainable environmental practices. One example includes the ministry's evolving new strategies to divert electronic and demolition waste from landfills.

Climate change. The issue of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions continues to be a concern to British Columbians and across nations. Over the last century, average temperatures have changed worldwide, contributing to imbalances in ecosystems and weather patterns. Between 1895 and 1995, the average annual temperature in B.C. warmed by 0.6 degrees Celsius.[2] The average sea level rose 4 to 12 cm along most of the province's coast between 1909 and 1999.[3] Warmer temperatures throughout the province have supported the rapid spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle. The ministry is leading the implementation of the government's response to climate change as outlined in *Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan*. The ministry is also funding studies of air quality and climate change by the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia.

Water supply. British Columbia's water resource is one of our most precious and important assets, one we often take for granted. Future economic prosperity, healthy communities, quality of life and the environment depend on a safe and sustainable supply of high

[1] BC Stats. P.E.O.P.L.E. May 2005.

[2] *Weather Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan. 2004*. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (www.env.gov.bc.ca/air/climate).

[3] *Indicators of Climate Change for British Columbia*. 2002. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

quality water. Pressures on our freshwater resources include a growing population and urban, agricultural and industrial development, climate change, more intensive use of domestic water supply areas for resource development, waterborne diseases, loss of riparian vegetation and damage to instream habitat. The ministry is working to integrate water stewardship into local government planning and engaging in outreach activities to foster water awareness within communities. The ministry is continuing the implementation of source water protection under the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in B.C. and is completing phases 2 and 3 of the Ground Water Protection Regulation.

Unpredictable natural and biological events. Severe and unpredictable natural or biological events have an impact on ecosystems, human health, and on local, national and international economies. In past years, forest fires have had devastating impacts on communities and parks in the interior of the province. The ministry continues to work on reducing the wildfire fuel hazard in provincial parks and protected areas and continues ecosystem restoration. Flood prevention and public safety through integrated flood hazard management are also ministry priorities. The threat of Avian Flu, which seriously affected the poultry industry in the Lower Mainland in 2004, continues to present a significant risk.

Economic Trends and Issues

Continued economic growth. British Columbia is forecasted to remain a top economic performer in 2006. High commodity prices and an impressive job creation rate are cited as reasons for this forecast. Although some diversification has occurred, B.C. exports are still largely resource based (e.g., forest products, oil, natural gas, coal and minerals). The resurgence of the coal industry and the ever-increasing demand for and use of combustible energy sources may provide economic benefits, but they threaten the global environment and must be balanced against their impact on the environment. The ministry's new responsibility for oceans and marine fisheries opens up opportunities for growth in the seafood sector and increased competitiveness in global markets.

Effects of the Mountain Pine Beetle. The Mountain Pine Beetle has threatened the economic stability of forest-dependent communities and the health of provincial parks and protected areas. The interior of British Columbia has experienced several consecutive mild winters and drought-like summers. The beetle thrives under such warm weather conditions, and beetle populations in many interior locations have increased to epidemic levels. Although increased harvesting of affected pine has created short-term economic growth, the continued spread of the beetle presents a significant challenge to these communities and to major tourism destinations such as Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. The ministry is actively participating in cross ministry initiatives, such as the government's Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan to address the impacts and implications of this infestation and the management activities undertaken to deal with it.

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The 2010 Olympics present a unique opportunity to showcase the province on an international scale and create lasting economic opportunities for British Columbians. The ministry is focusing efforts on enhancing economic benefits linked to recreational activities, parks and overall environmental health. In preparation for the Games, the ministry is investing in new facilities and infrastructure for B.C. parks and upgrading provincial campgrounds. The ministry is also enhancing opportunities for recreational fishing and wildlife viewing.

Societal Trends and Issues

Healthy British Columbians. Like many other jurisdictions, British Columbia is intensifying its focus on the health of its citizens and is actively encouraging healthy lifestyle choices. Through the government's ActNow BC program, and agencies such as the B.C. Conservation Corps, B.C. Wildlife Federation and Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C., the ministry is developing initiatives to increase the participation of people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds in healthy lifestyle choices and outdoor activities.

Sustainable Communities. A sustainable community is one where people want to live and work, now and in the future. Such communities balance and integrate economic viability, social equity, cultural well-being and ecological health. There are many sustainability initiatives underway both within and outside of government. Under the Sustainable Communities Initiative, the ministry is identifying and assessing opportunities to support sustainability efforts and initiatives across all levels of government, non-government organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

Core Business Areas

1. Environmental Stewardship

This core business area is led by the Environmental Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on working with other ministries, First Nations, industry, communities and governments to establish standards for the use and protection of species and habitats. This area has the lead role in collecting, maintaining and managing the scientific information necessary to ensure these standards represent the best available science. Other programs and services focus on the provision of outdoor opportunities in B.C. parks and protected areas, allocation of natural resources for hunting, angling and wildlife viewing, and helping to ensure the economic potential of these activities is realized in a sustainable way. Key functions focus on shared stewardship and sustainable economic development and are aimed at maintaining and restoring fish and wildlife species and their habitats. This core business area also works to promote the effective management of fish, wildlife and park resources. Environmental Stewardship provides and enhances park, freshwater fish and wildlife services and opportunities for British Columbians and others. This area establishes legislation (e.g., *Park Act*, *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, *Wildlife Act*), policies and procedures that allow for the protection and conservation of our natural environment.

Approximately $69,987,000 and 471 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

2. Water Stewardship

This core business area is led by the Water Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on providing provincial leadership in ensuring the water resources and aquatic ecosystems of British Columbia are safe, sustainable and valued by all. This involves protecting and managing water quality and quantity to optimize the benefits and sustainability of the province's water resources for communities, the economy and the environment. The division leads innovative approaches to water governance; develops legislation and non-regulatory tools; develops and delivers science and information critical to understanding and managing the water resource; and carries out statutory and public safety functions that support fair and sustainable water allocation, protect ground water resources and minimize the risk to British Columbians from floods and droughts. Other program areas include water planning, source drinking water protection, and water utility regulation. The division, through the Comptroller of Water Rights, is responsible for administering the *Water Act*, *Water Protection Act* and *Water Utilities Act*. This core business area's work places a high priority on fostering water stewardship through public awareness, education, partnerships and capacity building.

Approximately $28,457,000 and 120 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

3. Oceans and Marine Fisheries

This core business area under the Oceans and Marine Fisheries Division leads the development and implementation of the provincial government's ocean resources and marine fisheries initiatives. The key programs focus on sustainable and integrated management and use of B.C.'s ocean resources; a stable and diverse marine fishery that provides broad social and economic benefits for British Columbians; and growth and diversification of a seafood sector that offers strong competition in global markets with a focus on sustainability and quality. Key functions include leading the development of provincial oceans interests and objectives; creating collaborative provincial-federal resource management strategies; developing shared governance frameworks to ensure a stronger provincial role in the management of marine fisheries and ocean resources; supporting traceability and certification programs; and marketing the sustainability and quality of B.C.'s seafood industry in the global marketplace.

Approximately $2,149,000 and 13 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

4. Environmental Protection

This core business area is led by the Environmental Protection Division. Key programs and services focus on protecting human health and the environmental quality of water, land and air. Key functions aim at maintaining high environmental standards by promoting sustainable environmental practices in communities through partnerships and education on best management practices; maintaining a system for air and water quality monitoring and reporting; and regulating and monitoring industrial and community activities to ensure compliance. The core business area also focuses on providing opportunities such as industry-led stewardship programs for the reuse and recycling of post-consumer products and shifting the responsibility for lower risk spills to industry and partners.

The development and enactment of the *Environmental Management Act* facilitates implementation of outcome-based regulations that provide clear roles for governments and stakeholders, consistent performance standards, updated fee structures, decreased remedial and legal costs, and a greater focus on those not in compliance with regulatory requirements. This business area continues to develop, amend and implement regulations, codes, policies and procedures that support the outcome-based model and protect water, land and air.

Approximately $40,485,000 and 256 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

5. Compliance

This core business area is led by the Compliance Division. Key programs and services focus on providing ministry-wide leadership, innovation and services in support of the ministry's compliance goals. Activities include providing expertise in environmental investigation and enforcement, wildlife/human incident response and preventative programs, and compliance techniques and tools. Key functions include delivering a full range of compliance-related

activities, including educating citizens to be better stewards; promoting the understanding of, and compliance with, regulatory requirements; conducting investigations; and working with ministry programs on a range of enforcement options. The division supports the management and delivery of compliance activities in a manner that is timely, appropriate and consistent with the mandate of the ministry, and with the risk to the environmental values at issue.

Approximately $17,797,000 and 152 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

6. Executive and Support Services

This core business area is led through the Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division and is responsible for strategic planning and policy development. Key programs and services focus on providing effective planning and legislative support to assist core business areas in achieving their objectives. Other key programs include inter-governmental relations; assessing risk within structured decision-making; State of the Environment Reporting; sustainable communities; economic analysis; service planning, reporting, evaluation and performance management; and a full range of financial, human resource, administration and information systems services. The Corporate Services Division also provides financial, administration, human resource and information systems services to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Integrated Land Management Bureau.

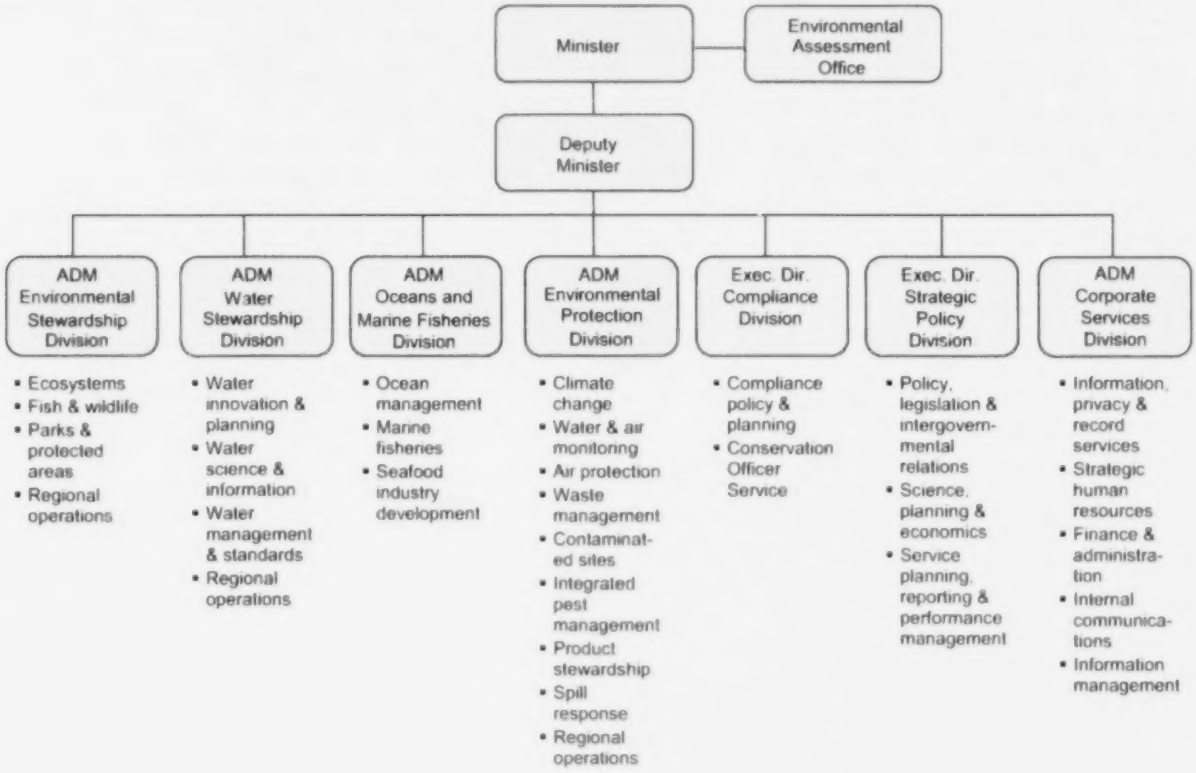
Approximately $29,389,000 and 393 FTEs are dedicated to this core business area.

Ministry Organizational Structure

In the fall of 2005, the ministry was restructured into seven divisions to more effectively support the services, programs and initiatives carried out in its core business areas.

Figure 1 below shows the ministry's current organizational structure and the main responsibilities of each division.

Figure 1. *Ministry of Environment organizational structure*



Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	2005/06 Restated Estimates[1]	2006/07 Estimates	2007/08 Plan	2008/09 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Environmental Stewardship	69,064	69,987	70,472	70,472
Water Stewardship[2]	20,829	28,457	63,457	63,457
Oceans and Marine Fisheries	2,131	2,149	2,149	2,149
Environmental Protection	39,807	40,485	40,488	40,488
Compliance	16,308	17,797	17,797	17,797
Executive and Support Services[2]	25,722	29,389	29,886	29,886
Total	**173,861**	**188,264**	**224,249**	**224,249**
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)				
Environmental Stewardship	466	471	475	475
Water Stewardship[2]	89	120	120	120
Oceans and Marine Fisheries	10	13	13	13
Environmental Protection	247	256	256	256
Compliance	145	152	152	152
Executive and Support Services[2]	382	393	393	393
Total	**1,339**	**1,405**	**1,409**	**1,409**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Environmental Stewardship[3]	24,686	43,123	29,619	14,702
Water Stewardship[2]	73	246	165	92
Oceans and Marine Fisheries	0	0	0	0
Environmental Protection	272	1,032	335	245
Compliance	150	2,258	1,108	985
Executive and Support Services[2]	4,686	3,374	2,759	2,037
Total	**29,867**	**50,033**	**33,986**	**18,061**

[1] These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2006/07 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates* presents a detailed reconciliation.

[2] Water Stewardship and Executive and Support Services operating expenses and FTEs include the integration of Land and Water BC effective October 1, 2006. Executive and Support Services capital expenditures also reflect that adjustment.

[3] Environmental Stewardship capital expenditures include funding increases for the potential costs associated with the creation of parks. Capital expenditures for 2005/06 and 2006/07 include a funding allocation for expenditures associated with the reconstruction of the Myra Canyon trestles. Schedule A of the *Estimates* presents a detailed reconciliation.

Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

The Environmental Appeal Board (Board) and Forest Appeals Commission (Commission) are independent, quasi-judicial tribunals jointly administered by the same office. They hear appeals of government decisions under several provincial statutes concerned with natural resource management, environmental quality and public health protection.

As well, the Board and Commission administer the Hospital Appeal Board and Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board for the Ministry of Health.

While the Board and the Commission operate independently from the Ministry of Environment, their budget vote is the responsibility of the ministry. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Minister of Environment, but they are included in the Resource Summary of this Service Plan.

Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission	2005/06 Restated Estimates[1]	2006/07 Estimates	2007/08 Plan	2008/09 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)	1,955	1,961	1,955	1,955
Capital Expenditures (CRF) ($000)	15	15	15	15
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)	11	11	11	11

[1] These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2006/07 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates* presents a detailed reconciliation.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

Overview

Ministry Goals

During the fall 2005 planning cycle, the ministry undertook a collaborative strategic planning process, developed a new corporate structure and revised its vision, mission and goals. The goals reflect the integration of new business and responsibility areas, bring an effective and balanced approach to environmental management, encourage collaboration across ministry divisions, and indicate the long-term results the ministry intends to achieve.

The ministry's new goals are:

- Clean and safe water, land and air.
- Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems.
- British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment.
- Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources.
- A high performance organization.

Linkage to the Five Great Goals

With its Five Great Goals, the government is poised to continue its work of the last four years and build on its accomplishments. The ministry has a leadership role in achieving the government's objectives under Great Goal 4 and accountability in achieving the government's objectives under Great Goals 2 and 5.

Great Goal 4

To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.

Ministry Linkage to Great Goal 4:

- Providing sustainable environmental management using science-based decision-making.
- Leading British Columbia's response to climate change, monitoring air quality, and taking action to limit air pollution.
- Ensuring safe, high quality drinking water, reducing and removing toxins and wastes from the environment, and responding to and reducing risks from and to the environment.
- Managing British Columbia's freshwater fisheries and fostering a joint decision-making process to ensure sustainable marine fisheries, ocean resources and marine protected areas.

- Building greater understanding among British Columbians of the benefits of healthy living and the effect their actions have on the environment.

Great Goal 2

To lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.

Ministry Linkage to Great Goal 2:

- Maintaining the high quality of air and water in the province.
- Providing outdoor opportunities related to British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife.
- Promoting domestic consumption of British Columbia's seafood.

Great Goal 5

To create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Ministry Linkage to Great Goal 5:

- Contributing to the economy and job creation through camping, hunting, angling and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Providing investment opportunities and job creation through sustainable environmental management.

Cross Ministry Initiatives

To support government priorities and achieve ministry objectives, we are involved in a variety of cross ministry initiatives. We also collaborate with others to support programs and initiatives related to government-identified themes.

As the ministry with primary responsibility for Great Goal 4, we lead several cross ministry initiatives such as the Climate Change Action Plan (implementing *Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan*), B.C. Water Strategy, Clean Air Strategy, Provincial Fisheries Strategy, Oceans Policy Framework, and Sustainable Communities Initiative. We also support cross ministry initiatives lead by others. Examples of these include the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water (Ministry of Health), the All Seasons Resorts Strategy (Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts) and the Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan (Ministry of Forests and Range).

To help achieve its Five Great Goals, the government has identified several major strategic themes that require collaboration and action across all government organizations.

- **First Nations.** The ministry is working closely with First Nations in the development of Parks Collaborative Management Agreements and Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes. These agreements actively engage many of the province's First Nations.

- **ActNow BC.** The ministry is a committed participant in ActNow BC, which promotes positive lifestyle choices and good health throughout the province. Ministry programs such as Get Outdoors with BC Parks (School Program), Getting Active in Parks (Pick Your Trail), Healthy Ecosystems (Healthy People Outreach), Go Fish BC (Young Anglers Program), and Enhanced Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) support this strategic theme.
- **The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.** The ministry is engaged in projects that will support the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, providing an opportunity to showcase to the world what British Columbia has to offer. Activities include upgrading parks and provincial campgrounds, improving recreational fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities, and providing enhanced outdoor opportunities along the Vancouver to Whistler corridor. The ministry is involved in the planning for a zero greenhouse gas emissions Winter Games and intends to showcase its accomplishments in contaminated site clean up. The ministry is also working with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) to encourage innovative approaches to waste management such as vegetative debris plans that minimize or eliminate the need to burn when clearing land for venue development.
- **Mountain Pine Beetle.** The ministry is ensuring parks and protected areas management incorporates an assessment of the epidemic on conservation values; coordinating spread control activities in parks and protected areas; and identifying and monitoring critical water supplies that may be impacted by the infestation or by forestry mitigation activities.

In support of other government-identified themes, the ministry is committed to citizen-centred service and regulatory reform. (See the Related Initiatives and Planning Processes section.)

Performance Plan

Along with the development of new goals, the ministry's fall 2005 strategic planning process included prioritizing and confirming objectives that will support these goals. Also developed were strategies to achieve the ministry's objectives and targets against which the ministry can measure its performance. Some performance measures have been retained from previous years, and some new measures have been added. Of these, two new performance measures will require the ministry to develop baseline data in the 2006/07 Service Plan year in order to establish and report on performance targets over the coming years. Each goal has one or more performance measures linked to specific objectives or directly to the goal itself. However, not all objectives under a goal have a corresponding performance measure.

The following information presents the ministry's goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures.

Goal 1: *Clean and safe water, land and air*

Healthy communities and a healthy environment depend on clean and safe water, land and air. These resources are a top priority of the ministry. This goal reflects the ministry's commitment to enhanced protection of our water resources, reduced contamination of land and air, and effective responses to climate change and environmental emergencies. Achievement of this goal is key to a healthy and sustainable environment for British Columbia.

Core Business Areas: *Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Compliance*

Objective 1: *Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources*

A safe and sustainable supply of high quality water is vital to our communities, economy and environment. Both protection and stewardship of our water resources are of utmost importance to the ministry. Achievement of this objective through effective legislation, innovative approaches to water governance and coordinated watershed-based planning contributes directly to the goal and is critical to the health of British Columbians and the environment.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include approving and implementing the B.C. Water Strategy, and includes:

- appointing a Chief Water Officer and defining accountabilities for ensuring exemplary water stewardship
- integrating cross ministry initiatives to promote and enhance water stewardship
- developing and implementing proactive planning and adaptation strategies to address emerging issues and cumulative effects (e.g., climate change, population growth)
- integrating water stewardship and long-term sustainability into local government planning and development programs
- continuing to ensure safe and secure drinking water sources through the ministry's source water protection program
- ensuring well-managed and accessible water resources information to support science-based decision-making

Performance Measure

Water quality trends in water bodies monitored under a federal/provincial agreement: This measure monitors trends in surface water quality based on the presence of environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients, within 30 water bodies monitored under the Canada — B.C. Water Quality Agreement. The water bodies chosen under this agreement represent the province geographically. This monitoring

accounts for the effects on water quality created by the multiple uses in and around these bodies. The results of this measure, therefore, provide a good indication of the outcomes of protection efforts and stewardship of the province's water resources.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Trends in environmentally significant variables indicating the health of 30 water bodies monitored under a federal/provincial agreement	96% of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies have stable or improving water quality trends (in 2004/05)	Maintain or improve water quality trends for water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: In 2003/04 and 2002/03, 90% of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies had stable or improving water quality trends. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

Objective 2: *Reduced contamination from toxins and wastes*

Disposing of the toxins and wastes generated each year comes at significant costs. These costs include financial costs associated with shutting down landfills and establishing new ones, dealing with the contamination of land, water and air, and addressing the impact on ecosystems and the health of citizens. By reducing contamination from toxins and wastes efficiently and effectively, the ministry will minimize impacts to water, land, air, human health and safety, and the economy.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- completing the 2005 Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) tracking report for baseline data
- creating a strategy to further reduce MSW such as diversion of demolition, land clearing and construction waste
- adding new products to the Recycling Regulation
- continuing to follow and implement the Brownfield[4] strategy
- updating the Hazardous Waste Regulations

Objective 3: *Healthy air quality*

Protecting the quality of the air remains a key focus of the ministry. Healthy air quality means healthy people and a healthy environment. Taking action to reduce air pollution will

[4] Brownfields are idle or underused properties where past activities have caused environmental contamination but which, nevertheless, exhibit good potential for other uses and which provide economically viable business opportunities.

help improve the health of British Columbians, preserve our environment and enhance our economic competitiveness.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include approving and implementing the Clean Air Strategy, and includes initiatives such as:

- improving and increasing efforts to replace uncertified woodstoves with more efficient and approved clean-burning appliances
- identifying and improving multi-agency collaborative initiatives that bring relevant regulatory authorities, program initiatives and human resources from all levels and parts of government together to address air quality issues
- developing an Air Quality Health Index in collaboration with federal partners

Performance Measure

Air quality: The outdoor air contaminants of most concern in British Columbia, from a human health and ecosystem perspective, are airborne particulate matter (PM) and low level or ground level ozone.

$PM_{2.5}$ refers to "fine" particles less than 2.5 micrometres in size (or about 1/20th the width of a human hair). These fine particulates, which are most often generated by combustion processes and by chemical reactions taking place in the air, are easily inhaled and penetrate into the lungs, posing a threat to human health.

Although ozone in the stratosphere (the ozone layer) is beneficial and filters out harmful ultraviolet rays, ground level ozone is a pollutant and can be damaging to human health and the environment. Ground level ozone is also a major component of photochemical smog. Ground level ozone is a secondary pollutant, formed through chemical reactions involving nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in the presence of sunlight. Nitrogen oxides are primarily emitted during combustion of fossil fuels and biomass. VOCs are emitted during the incomplete combustion of fuel, as well as from the evaporation of fuels, solvents, paints and dry-cleaning fluids, or from natural sources, such as biogenic emissions from vegetation. Ground level ozone also occurs naturally and can come from down-mixing from the stratosphere.

To measure the ministry's efforts and commitment in ensuring all parts of the province have clean and safe air, the ministry is tracking the percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standards (CWS) for $PM_{2.5}$ and ground level ozone. Canada-wide standards are standards developed through participation by the federal, provincial and territorial governments on the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. These standards are to be met by 2010, and their achievement represents an important step toward minimizing the negative effects of poor air quality on human health and the environment.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard (CWS) quality objective for $PM_{2.5}$ and low level ozone	$PM_{2.5}$: 14 out of 16 communities (87.5%) achieved the CWS (based on 2004 data) Low level ozone: 28 out of 29 (97%) communities achieved the CWS (based on 2004 data)	By 2010, 100% of communities monitored achieve, or continue to achieve, the CWS for $PM_{2.5}$ and low level ozone		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: CWS for $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone: Comparable data for previous years are: $PM_{2.5}$: 13 out of 15 communities (86.7%) in 2003; 10 out of 11 communities (91%) in 2002. Low level ozone: 23 out of 24 (96%) in 2003; 23 out of 23 communities (100%) in 2002. (Source: Ministry of Environment.) Note: The number of communities reported for $PM_{2.5}$ and low level ozone has increased over time. This is due to an increase in the number of monitored communities having sufficient data to generate the statistics needed to determine the CWS.

Objective 4: *Effective responses to climate change*

Climate change is an issue that has both local and global significance. Although greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia represent only a fraction of the world's emissions, all jurisdictions, including British Columbia, have a role to play in reducing these emissions. B.C. is also seeing some amount of warming and climate-related impacts. The ministry is the lead agency for the provincial government's response to climate change, which includes the reduction of provincial greenhouse emissions ("mitigation"), as well as preparation for climate change and related extreme weather ("adaptation").

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- leading B.C.'s response to climate change — coordinating and reporting on government implementation of *Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan*
- implementing climate change mitigation actions that are outlined in *Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan*
- implementing climate change adaptation actions that are outlined in *Weather, Climate and the Future: B.C.'s Plan*

Performance Measure

Greenhouse gas emissions: Greenhouse gases (GHG) include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride. Human activities have a direct impact on the amounts of these gases present in the atmosphere. Examples of activities that increase GHG are fossil-fuel combustion, deforestation, methane emissions from landfills, livestock cultivation and cement production.

To assess performance in its lead role on addressing global climate change within British Columbia, the ministry is using an outcome measure of per capita greenhouse gas emissions relative to that of other provinces. The relative benchmark measures British Columbia's contribution to national efforts, while accounting for the largely unknown effects of future national GHG commitments and clean technology development that are likely to apply to all provinces.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to other provinces	3rd-lowest emissions in Canada (based on 2003 data)	Maintain or improve on ranking		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: Data for 2004 will be available later in 2006. For 2003, 2002 and 2001, B.C. had the 3rd lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions behind Prince Edward Island and Quebec. (Source: Environment Canada and Statistics Canada.)

Objective 5: *Effective management of environmental risks*

Activities and events in the environment can present risks to public health and safety, property and the environment itself. Although not all risks are avoidable, effective management means that impacts from risks can be minimized. The ministry anticipates, responds to and manages the consequences of risks.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- responding effectively to high risk environmental emergencies such as oil spills, hazardous material spills and gas leaks
- developing a strategy to enhance partnerships for environmental stewardship in spill responses
- reducing the risk to public safety through effective flood hazard management (working with local governments), drought management and dam safety programs

Goal 2: *Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems*

Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems provide significant environmental, social and economic benefits to British Columbia and its people. To achieve this goal, the ministry develops, manages, regulates and enforces environmental programs and legislation that contribute significantly to ensuring the health and diversity of native species and ecosystems.

Core Business Areas: ***Environmental Stewardship, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Compliance***

Objective 1: *Well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems*

The collection, storage and dissemination of scientific information provides for effective research, contributes to the understanding of the status of native species and ecosystems, and is critical to making informed decisions. Without well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems, it is not possible to fully understand the health and diversity of our native species and ecosystems, nor make effective management decisions.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- compiling, consolidating, analyzing and distributing information on species and ecosystems
- providing the conservation status of species and ecosystems
- providing guidelines and standards for the protection and conservation of species and ecosystems, including monitoring and reporting on achievements

Objective 2: *Well-maintained parks and protected lands*

Parks and protected lands have great conservation value and provide a place for native species to exist in their natural environment. The designation of parks and protected lands means these areas will be preserved for future generations and demonstrates British Columbia's commitment to the conservation of native species and ecosystems.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- continuing to identify, design, designate and secure parks and protected lands
- undertaking parks and protected lands planning and management to ensure long-term conservation
- maintaining and promoting partnerships for securing and managing parks and protected lands

Objective 3: *Protected, maintained and restored native species and ecosystems*

British Columbia is home to a rich diversity and abundance of native species and habitats. Programs within the ministry conserve biodiversity, maintain and enhance native ecosystems and achieve a balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of the people.
The ministry encourages others to accept a greater role in environmental stewardship and facilitates community initiatives to protect and restore local environments.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- improving cumulative impact assessment processes
- continuing to work with and expand partnerships, including those with First Nations, to identify, protect and restore species and ecosystems
- developing a responsive resource assessment and management strategy that builds capacity to manage fish and wildlife populations and ecosystems
- developing guidelines and standards for protection and conservation of species and ecosystems
- developing and implementing an enhanced legal and policy framework and regional-based planning programs
- providing scientific advice to decision makers and implementers of resource use policies and land use planning
- providing leadership in species at risk ranking and designation, and preparation and implementation of recovery plans
- developing and implementing a provincial policy that balances water flow requirements for species, ecosystems, communities and industrial needs
- leading, in collaboration with the federal government, the development of a marine protected area system for the Pacific coast

Performance Measure

Number of completed designations by the ministry under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA): including Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHA), Ungulate Winter Ranges (UWR) and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds (FSW). Designations under FRPA provide special management for species impacted by forest and range activities on Crown land. These designations provide legislated protection for habitats and contribute significantly to the conservation of native species. The inclusion of FSWs in this measure is new. FSW designations will provide valuable protection to fish in some of B.C.'s watersheds that are most sensitive to forest and range activities. The targets for approval of UWR designations will decrease over the next three years, reflecting an expected decrease in UWR plans remaining for approval.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Number of completed designations by the Ministry of Environment under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*: including Wildlife Habitat Areas, Ungulate Winter Ranges, and Fisheries Sensitive Watersheds	Designations approved as of March 31/05: 320 WHA (658,935 hectares) 28 UWR* (2,284,917 hectares) FSW — Baseline to be established at year end 2005/06	An additional 30 WHA 10 UWR 10 FSW designations approved	An additional 30 WHA 5 UWR 10 FSW designations approved	An additional 30 WHA 5 UWR 10 FSW designations approved

* Specifies the number of UWR packages; each package may have as few as 1 to more than 1,000 winter ranges. Thus, when monitoring progress in this area, it is important also to consider the amount of area designated.

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: As of March 31, 2004, there were 160 wildlife habitat area (WHA) designations approved (covering 49,120 hectares) and 15 ungulate winter range (UWR) designations approved (covering 913,462 hectares). As of March 31, 2003, there were 129 WHA designations approved (covering 44,233 hectares) and no UWR designations approved. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

Goal 3: *British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment*

Environmental sustainability can neither be created by governments nor imposed by public policy. It depends on the collective knowledge, commitment and actions of individuals, organizations, communities and all levels of government as a whole. Achievement of this goal requires strong and expanded partnerships with industry and stakeholders, and an environmentally conscious and knowledgeable public. Having a society in which individuals act as stewards by considering the environmental impacts of their individual and collective actions will be a great step toward sustainability.

Core Business Areas: ***Environmental Stewardship, Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Compliance, Executive and Support Services***

Performance Measure

Municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal is a goal level performance measure that demonstrates the commitment by businesses and the public to reduce their impacts on the environment. In 2006/07, activities will include collecting data for the 2005/06 baseline, and scoping and analysis to determine achievable targets for inclusion in future service plans.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Municipal solid waste disposal (kilograms/ capita)		Baseline data to be collected for the 2005 MSW tracking report	Targets to be developed in 2006	

Objective 1: *British Columbians understand the benefits of healthy living and the effect of their actions on the environment*

In order for British Columbians to become environmentally conscious in their lives, they must understand the relationship between their actions and how those actions directly impact their health, the quality of their lives, and the lives of other people and species with which they share ecosystems. As British Columbians continue to make the connection between actions and impacts, they are much more likely to take on the role of stewards and demand a much higher environmental standard for their own actions and those of others.

Strategy:

A key strategy for this objective is:

- exploring and developing a comprehensive and integrated ministry stewardship outreach strategy

Objective 2: *Shared stewardship*

Public and stakeholder expectations of meaningful involvement in decision-making and in sharing responsibility for environmental outcomes continue to be a force for change in the way the ministry does its business. The ministry recognizes that a successful shared stewardship model needs to integrate cooperative and collaborative partnerships across all sectors and geographic jurisdictions. Necessary tools include information, knowledge, consultation and partnering opportunities.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- effectively communicating and sharing knowledge through consultative processes that engage stakeholders
- enhancing and promoting shared stewardship through partnership and volunteer programs, environmental awards and the creation of a stewardship network
- designing and developing legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines that are publicly accessible, consultation driven and client focused

- promoting collaborative management and decision-making processes for resource use
- pursuing opportunities for the Conservation Officer Service to provide compliance and enforcement activities through partnerships with other agencies

Performance Measure

Number of partnerships with First Nations: The ministry is monitoring its progress in forging partnerships with First Nations. In the past, the ministry has used a performance measure based on the number of Collaborative Management Agreements with First Nations. This measure has been changed to include the number of official Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes and the number of Parks Collaborative Management Agreements.

The ministry currently has 15 Collaborative Management Agreements in place for parks and protected areas, and is in the process of negotiating approximately 15 additional agreements. These agreements are generally linked to the creation of new protected areas in Land Use Plans, but in a number of cases are being discussed in the context of treaty negotiations or other provincial initiatives. Collaborative Management Agreements define how the province and First Nations will work together on the management of protected areas.

Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes are designed to provide a region-wide perspective and actively engage First Nations and key stakeholders, with a direct interest in fish and wildlife, in a forum to discuss management and allocation issues.

Both of these processes provide a significant role to First Nations in making recommendations around protected areas and wildlife management.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Number of Collaborative Management Agreements and Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes with First Nations	15 Collaborative Management Agreements 5 Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes (as of 2004/05)	2 new Collaborative Management Agreements or Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes per year		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: Currently, 115 of 198 bands (representing 58% of British Columbia's First Nations bands), are engaged in Park Collaborative Management Agreements and/or Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes with the ministry. In 2003/04, there were 14 Collaborative Management Agreements and 2 Official Wildlife Processes with First Nations. In 2002/03, there were 12 Collaborative Management Agreements and 2 Official Wildlife Processes with First Nations. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)

Objective 3: *Industry and client groups are knowledgeable and implement best environmental management practices*

British Columbia continues to enjoy expanding economic opportunities. More and more, industry, organizations and other ministry client groups understand the benefits of incorporating environmental values and best practices into their decision-making processes and activities. Good environmental management practices not only protect the environment, and greatly reduce costs (e.g., use resources and energy more efficiently, reduce waste and reduce discards in marine fisheries), they also set the foundation for good corporate citizenship.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing stewardship programs to mitigate environmental impact from product production to disposal
- providing resource information to facilitate shared responsibility and partnerships
- encouraging compliance by reporting those in non-compliance and those exceeding environmental standards

Performance Measure

Industry-led product stewardship: For this measure, the ministry is counting the number of post-consumer product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs. Currently, stewardship programs are in place for paint, used oil products, beverage containers and four other post-consumer residuals, all of which provide significant reduction in waste and positive benefits to the environment. Industry-led stewardship programs demonstrate producer responsibility for a product by managing that product across its entire life cycle and reducing the environmental impact upon disposal. The result of these stewardship programs is less household hazardous waste in landfills, less total waste in landfills and less burden on local governments to manage this waste. Stewardship programs are, and will continue to be, an important example of how B.C. industry works with the ministry and is implementing effective and responsible environmental management practices. The target has been changed from the previous one product per year to reflect an anticipated increase in the time needed to coordinate new programs.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs	7 (as of March 31/05)	A total of 2 additional categories over 3 years		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: British Columbia has seven product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs in place: paint, used oil products, beverage containers, pharmaceuticals, solvents and flammable liquids, domestic pesticides, and gasoline.

Goal 4: *Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources*

British Columbia's environment provides benefits to British Columbians and others in a variety of ways. Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources promotes job creation, and contributes significantly to the quality of life of residents and visitors. Sustainable use means that resources are used in ways that ensure their continued availability today and for generations to come.

Core Business Areas: ***Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Environmental Stewardship, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Compliance***

Objective 1: *Sustainable use and continued benefits of water and air*

British Columbia's water and air resources sustain a full range of economic, community and ecosystem needs. Understanding the important benefits that these resources provide, the ministry ensures that wise and prudent management of our water and air resources will continue to provide benefits to British Columbians in the future.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- seeking public consensus on a new water allocation model
- exploring shared governance frameworks to promote increased community and stakeholder involvement at the local level
- modifying and streamlining the *Water Act* and related legislation
- valuing water appropriately by recognizing its full range of benefits
- continuing to promote water conservation and demand-side management measures
- continuing to ensure timely response to water licence applications to support economic development
- promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder airshed and watershed management plans

Performance Measure

Number of water management plans developed and implemented: Water or watershed management plans are undertaken to coordinate development and management of water, land and related resources to optimize the benefits and sustainability of the community, economy and environment. These plans serve as a valuable tool to address conflicts between water users and in-stream flow requirements, risks to water quality and aquatic ecosystems, concerns about land use and other issues. The water management plan performance measure assesses both the number of water management plans designated under the *Water Act* and plans with no statutory basis. The province will seek to promote and facilitate the development and implementation of water management plans over the coming years as an important part of its goal to sustain British Columbia's water resources.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Number of water or watershed management plans completed and implemented	One completed: Trepanier Creek Watershed Plan (June 2004)	Increase the total number of completed plans to 6 by 2010 2 additional plans completed by 2007/08 and 3 additional plans completed by 2009/10		

Objective 2: *Optimized public, outdoor and commercial opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife*

British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife provide a variety of unique outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors in the form of recreation, camping, angling, hunting and wildlife viewing. The use of these resources by British Columbians and visitors to the province promotes healthy living and an appreciation of B.C.'s landscape, native species and the environment as a whole. The use of campgrounds and purchase of angling and hunting licences contributes to the maintenance and infrastructure of our natural places and to environmental protection and management activities. Several commercial organizations also use these resources, attracting visitors from around the world. This creates jobs within B.C. and contributes significantly to the province's economy. Effective management and use of these resources will ensure their sustainability.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- providing outstanding hunting, angling and wildlife viewing opportunities
- developing and implementing outdoor activities and commercial opportunities that reflect client preferences
- maximizing opportunities for partnerships with First Nations, local communities, non-profit groups and private land owners
- developing and implementing marketing strategies to promote healthy living through park visitation

Performance Measures

Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction: British Columbia's parks offer a variety of unique outdoor opportunities and experiences to residents and visitors to the province. Use of parks and their facilities encourages travel and contributes significantly to the provincial economy and the health of B.C.'s citizens and visitors. To measure the economic contribution of parks, the number of recorded visits to provincial parks is being used. Recognizing that the satisfaction of park visitors with the experiences offered to them is important, the results of park satisfaction surveys are also being tracked. The combination of park visitations and the satisfaction of visitors with the opportunities offered provides a measure of their contribution to the economy and human health, now and in the future.

Number of hunting and angling licences sold: This measure reflects the number of resident and non-resident hunters and anglers taking advantage of the freshwater fishing and hunting opportunities in British Columbia. Although the measure does not account for differences in the experiences and economic contributions of individual licence holders, it does provide a good indication of the trends in overall economic contributions from hunting and angling opportunities. In addition to the economic contributions, these activities offer opportunities to experience the B.C. wilderness and contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Performance Measures	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction rate	Approximately 18.3 million recorded visits (2004/05) 80% satisfaction rating (five-year rolling average of surveys from 2000/01 to 2004/05)	Increase the number of recorded visits to B.C. parks by 20% by 2010 (baseline in 2004/05) Maintain or improve on parks satisfaction survey results		
Number of basic hunting and angling licences sold	Hunting: 84,003 resident; 5,931 non-resident (2004/05) Angling: 248,052 resident; 68,328 non-resident (2004/05)	Increase the number of basic hunting licences sold to 100,000 by 2014/15 (baseline 2004/05) Increase the number of angling licences sold to 400,000 by 2014/15 (baseline 2004/05)		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information:
Recorded park visits: The number of recorded visits to B.C. parks was approximately 19.0 million in 2003 and approximately 22.6 million in 2002. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)
Visitor satisfaction: The five-year rolling average for 2003/2004 was approximately 80%, which is based on the Visitor Satisfaction Index rating of the reporting years of 1999/2000 to 2003/04. The five-year rolling average for 2002/03 was approximately 80%, which is based on the Visitor Satisfaction Index rating for the reporting years of 1998/1999 to 2002/2003. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)
Hunting and angling licences sold: 2003/04: Hunting — 81,368 resident and 5,785 non-resident; Angling — 252,867 resident and 69,398 non-resident. 2002/03: Hunting — 85,714 resident and 6,234 non-resident; Angling — 275,430 resident and 79,772 non-resident. (Source: Ministry of Environment.)
Future direction: In 06/07, the ministry will be working on the development of a target to measure wildlife viewing activities.

Objective 3: *Sustainable and collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources*

British Columbia's oceans and marine resources provide great economic benefits to the citizens of the province. The ministry works in collaboration with the federal government to ensure British Columbia's interests are represented in the governance of ocean and marine resources and that these resources are managed in a sustainable manner.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- identifying and advancing provincial objectives as they relate to ocean resources and their use
- influencing implementation of the federal Oceans Strategy on the Pacific coast
- ensuring that federal management and international relations reflect provincial objectives for marine fisheries
- representing B.C.'s interests to ensure the seafood sector's fair share of federal and cross-government programs, initiatives and activities to promote research, exports and investment
- undertaking programs and strategies to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of B.C.'s seafood products in domestic and export markets

Performance Measure

Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process: Economic sustainability is dependent on the level and certainty of access to resources. Measuring the increase in the number of B.C. marine fisheries that are managed collaboratively and include provincial government participation will determine if B.C.'s interests concerning fair allocation and certainty of access to resources are represented.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process	3 fisheries (2004/05)	4 fisheries (total)	5 fisheries (total)	6 fisheries (total)

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: Baseline data: The three fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process in the 2004/05 baseline data are hake, herring and tuna.

Goal 5: *A high performance organization*

A high performance organization is reflected in its leadership, people, operating systems, culture and the services it provides. It is flexible, able to adapt to situations and events, and is responsive to the needs of its clients. A high performance organization provides a challenging and healthy working environment to staff, promotes learning and is committed to continuous improvement.

Core Business Areas: ***Environmental Stewardship, Water Stewardship, Environmental Protection, Compliance, Oceans and Marine Fisheries, Executive and Support Services***

Objective 1: *A client-focused organization*

A client-focused organization strives to identify and develop ways to continuously improve client service. The ministry anticipates what its clients — the citizens, organizations and businesses of British Columbia — will need and how best to meet those needs through responsive staff, programs, policy, legislation, decision-making and information systems.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- fostering positive relationships with clients
- identifying and implementing continuous improvements to client business processes

Performance Measure

Changes in satisfaction of client groups: Ensuring client groups are satisfied with the services and working relationships with the ministry is important. Over the coming year, the ministry will be designing and administering a baseline survey of targeted clients. This baseline will provide a starting point from which changes in client satisfaction will be tracked over the coming years.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Changes in satisfaction of client groups	None currently	Baseline data to be collected in 2006/07	Targets to be developed	

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: Currently, the ministry administers several client satisfaction surveys, including the parks satisfaction survey and hunter and angler satisfaction surveys. The survey intended to provide data for this measure will be in addition to the surveys currently administered by the ministry.

Objective 2: *A healthy working environment that motivates and supports staff, promotes innovation, and attracts and retains high performance employees*

The ministry strives to ensure that it is a sought-after, well-respected and innovative place to work. Recognizing that a challenging and balanced work environment is essential for good health and a productive workforce, the ministry recognizes staff for their contributions, supports their work with appropriate resources, and encourages professional developmental opportunities and health and wellness activities.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- updating and implementing the ministry human resources strategy
- optimizing performance by providing developmental opportunities, recognition and reward initiatives
- advancing the development of a knowledgeable and skilled workforce
- fostering a supportive workplace culture through leadership, health promotion and social relationships

Objective 3: *A coordinated approach to legislation, policy, resource allocation and compliance*

Leadership and a coordinated approach to legislation and policy development, resource allocation and compliance and enforcement services is essential to ensuring cross ministry consistency, effective and efficient program delivery and the realization of ministry goals. The ministry works across core business areas to support goals and objectives, improve outcomes, identify risks and focus on ministry and government priorities.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- providing a legislative and policy framework that supports ministry goals
- leading and managing the deployment of effective and efficient shared services
- providing leadership and service in support of a strategic ministry compliance approach and maintaining strong and effective compliance and enforcement services

Objective 4: *An integrated approach to ministry planning, performance management and evaluation*

The ministry undertakes an integrated cross ministry approach to strategic, service and business planning, reporting, program evaluation and performance management, ensuring all planning activities reflect the ministry's goals and objectives.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- facilitating a strategic and integrated approach to ministry planning and performance management
- providing tools, guidelines, expertise and support for effective business planning and program evaluation

Objective 5: *Accurate, timely information*

The effective and efficient sharing of accurate, timely information is an essential component of a high performance organization. Well-managed, accurate and accessible information is critical to making informed environmental management decisions and meeting the service needs of British Columbians.

Strategies:

Key strategies for this objective include:

- developing information resources to produce optimum results
- pursuing opportunities to maximize the use of technology and best practices in the management of business applications and information resources

Ministry Performance Plan Summary

Five Great Goals

To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
To lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.
To create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Ministry Mission

Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures
1. Clean and safe water, land and air	1.1 Enhanced protection and stewardship of our water resources	Water quality trends in water bodies monitored under a federal/provincial agreement
	1.2 Reduced contamination from toxins and wastes	
	1.3 Healthy air quality	Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard (CWS) for particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) and low level ozone
	1.4 Effective responses to climate change	Per capita greenhouse (GHG) emissions relative to other provinces
	1.5 Effective management of environmental risks	
2. Healthy and diverse native species and ecosystems	2.1 Well-managed and accessible information on species and ecosystems	
	2.2 Well-maintained parks and protected lands	
	2.3 Protected, maintained and restored native species and ecosystems	Number of completed designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*
3. British Columbians understand that they share responsibility for the environment		Municipal solid waste disposal (kilograms/ capita)
	3.1 British Columbians understand the benefits of healthy living and the effect of their actions on the environment	
	3.2 Shared stewardship	Number of Collaborative Management Agreements and Regional Fish and Wildlife Advisory Processes with First Nations
	3.3 Industry and client groups are knowledgeable and implement best environmental management practices	Number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship programs

Ministry Performance Plan Summary

Five Great Goals

To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.
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Ministry Mission

Lead, inform, involve and support British Columbians to achieve the best environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures
4. Sustainable use of British Columbia's environmental resources	4.1 Sustainable use and continued benefits of water and air	Number of water or watershed management plans completed and implemented
	4.2 Optimized public, outdoor and commercial opportunities from British Columbia's parks, fish and wildlife	Number of recorded park visits and visitor satisfaction rate
		Number of basic hunting and angling licences sold
	4.3 Sustainable and collaborative management and use of marine and ocean resources	Number of marine-based commercial and recreational fisheries managed through a collaborative decision-making process
5. A high performance organization	5.1 A client-focused organization	Changes in satisfaction of client groups
	5.2 A healthy working environment that motivates and supports staff, promotes innovation, and attracts and retains high performance employees	
	5.3 A coordinated approach to legislation, policy, resource allocation and compliance	
	5.4 An integrated approach to ministry planning, performance management and evaluation	
	5.5 Accurate, timely information	

Environmental Assessment Office

Overview

Purpose of the EAO

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) was created in 1995 to coordinate the assessment of proposed major projects in British Columbia as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). In December 2002, a new *Environmental Assessment Act* was introduced to provide greater flexibility and timeliness in the process.

The assessment process examines major projects for potentially adverse environmental, economic, social, health and heritage effects that may occur during the life cycle of these projects, including construction, operation and decommissioning. The process includes:

- opportunities for all interested parties, government agencies and First Nations to provide input and identify issues;
- consultations with First Nations to address, and where appropriate accommodate, potential effects on established and asserted Aboriginal rights and title;
- technical studies of environmental, social, economic, heritage and/or health effects to identify potentially adverse effects of a proposed project;
- strategies to prevent, or reduce, adverse effects through mitigation or project redesign; and
- development of a comprehensive report summarizing input and findings that may include recommendations on whether to make a decision on an environmental assessment certificate for a project. Project certification, issued by ministers at the conclusion of an environmental assessment, represents government's approval in principle and allows a proponent to seek any other statutory authorizations necessary to proceed with the development of a project.

Issues or concerns identified by provincial, federal and local governments, First Nations and the public may trigger modifications or changes to a project as it moves through the environmental assessment process. Proponents also have specific accountabilities in the review process to provide information on their projects and work to reduce the level of project impact.

Projects in the following sectors that meet or exceed the size thresholds established in the Reviewable Projects Regulation (BC Reg 370/2002) are automatically subject to the Act: industrial, mining, energy, water management (dams, dykes, and reservoirs), waste disposal, food processing, transportation and tourism (destination resorts). Project proponents may also apply to have their project reviewed under the Act; and the Minister has the discretion to require the assessment of other projects where there is a compelling public interest to do so.

Major projects in British Columbia may be subject to review under both federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation. In March 2004, British Columbia and Canada renewed a bi-lateral agreement to coordinate their respective environmental assessment requirements to avoid duplication and overlap. Under the agreement, projects subject to federal and provincial review use a common process, and information requirements wherever possible, that meets the legal requirements of both governments.

During an assessment, the EAO obtains valuable advice from other provincial ministries, such as the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue, and the Ministry of Environment on technical and policy considerations within their respective mandates.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

Environmentally and socially responsible development that contributes to a strong and vibrant economy in British Columbia.

Mission

The EAO delivers a timely and integrated process for assessing the environmental, social, heritage, economic and health effects, and potential impacts to First Nations' claims to Aboriginal rights and title, of major projects in British Columbia, reports the findings of environmental assessment reviews to government and may make recommendations regarding project certification.

Values

The EAO respects First Nations and all stakeholders in the environmental assessment process through a principle-based approach that is neutral, fair, balanced and open. The EAO relies on science and results-based standards wherever possible, encourages innovation and creativity, and values:

- Cooperation and teamwork
- Respect for the opinions of others
- Honesty and integrity
- Service excellence
- A healthy workplace
- Accountability to the people of British Columbia

Strategic Context

The continued strong performance of the provincial economy, as well as increasing demand for energy resources from Asia and the United States, has significant effects on the workload of the EAO. Over the past two years, the EAO has experienced an unprecedented number of mining, energy and infrastructure projects entering the assessment process. With economic growth projections above 3.0 per cent for the next three years,[5] this trend is expected to continue. Projects in or entering the process are forecast to remain at levels well above those anticipated when the first service plan was developed in 2001.

Project proposals for new mines in the north represent the majority of projects in the process and will use the bulk of the EAO's resources. At the same time, advances in new energy technologies (such as wind power, run-of-the-river hydro power generation projects, and Liquid Natural Gas tanker imports) are being driven by public demands for green energy sources and alternatives to the high cost of oil.

When conducting assessments and preparing recommendations to government on applications for environmental assessment certificates, the EAO must be responsive to the evolving legal requirements related to Aboriginal rights and title claims to Crown land and resources. The EAO must ensure that government's obligation to consult and, where indicated, accommodate First Nations has been adequately discharged before recommendations are made. The EAO works with First Nations to facilitate their involvement in project reviews to ensure that potential impacts on established and asserted rights and title are identified and addressed through meaningful consultation and, where appropriate, accommodated. Government's commitment to establish a new relationship with First Nations presents an opportunity to enhance First Nations participation in the assessment process.

The EAO continues to work with other government bodies, including federal government agencies and EAO clients to improve upon the environmental assessment process. The Act's legislated timeframes for completing project reviews have improved the predictability of the process. Continued efforts to harmonize federal and provincial assessment processes also help improve the process. EAO coordination of federal and provincial reviews, using legislated provincial timelines, has encouraged proponents of projects that do not automatically require a provincial environmental assessment to request reviews under the EAO process. These successes have also contributed to increasing project volumes.

As a demand-driven program, the EAO has experienced continued budget pressures as it attempts to cope with an increasing number of reviewable projects and increased review complexities. The specialized knowledge and skills required to manage environmental

[5] B.C. Ministry of Finance, 2005 Budget Update Report.

assessments are in short supply, and the ability to ramp up and down to meet demand is challenging. Since 2005/06, the EAO has made efforts to use contracted resources when practical to do so, but the ability to use contracted resources is limited.

In a climate of increasing project complexity and First Nations consultation requirements, the EAO's key strategic issue is to meet changes in demand for environmental assessments within legislated timelines and with available resources.

Core Business Areas

1. Project Assessments

The core business area of Project Assessments is managed by individual teams composed of a project leader and one or more process support staff. Staff in project teams work on several different projects simultaneously and draw on technical expertise from across government and the private sector. They apply knowledge, judgement and analytical expertise to coordinate inter-agency and public processes, and to prepare project assessment reports that recommend whether projects should proceed or not.

2. Corporate Operations

The core business area of Corporate Operations is responsible for providing operational support to the EAO in the areas of service planning, budgeting, expenditure control, staff development, human resources, policy and legislation, records management, and management of the electronic Project Information Centre (ePIC) and website.

Resource Summary

Core Business Areas	2005/06 Restated Estimates[1]	2006/07 Estimates	2007/08 Plan	2008/09 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Project Assessments and Corporate Operations	4,606	5,575	4,539	4,539
Total	**4,606**	**5,575**	**4,539**	**4,539**
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)				
Project Assessments and Corporate Operations	35	38	38	38
Total	**35**	**38**	**38**	**38**
Office Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Corporate Operations	62	146	56	56
Total	**62**	**146**	**56**	**56**

[1] These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2006/07 *Estimates*. Schedule A of the *Estimates* presents a detailed reconciliation.

Capital Projects

Due to the number of projects expected to be in or entering the review process in the next three years, the EAO will require new office space to accommodate its staff requirements.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

Overview

EAO Goals

The EAO has established goals, objectives and related strategies that focus on the completeness and thoroughness of environmental assessment reporting and clarity of the environment assessment process. These goals will move the organization toward its vision of excellence in environmental assessment and support its mission to report the outcome of environmental assessments to government.

Linkage to the Five Great Goals

With an expanding economy and public demand for accountability, the work of the EAO is linked to the following Great Goals:

Great Goal 4:

Lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.

Linkage to EAO:

- Ensures the thorough and comprehensive review of the effects of major projects on air and water quality and fisheries management issues.
- Works with proponents to develop mitigation strategies to reduce any potential effects on air and water quality and fisheries management to acceptable levels.

Great Goal 2:

Lead the way in North America in healthy living and physical fitness.

Linkage to EAO:

- Evaluates potential health issues associated with major development projects and recommends mitigation strategies.
- Works with proponents to develop public recreational opportunities as part of major project assessments wherever possible.

Great Goal 5:

Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Linkage to EAO:

- Facilitates economic development and job creation through an environmental assessment process that is predictable and timely.
- Encourages proponents to ensure local communities receive some of the benefits of their projects.

Cross Ministry Initiatives

To help government achieve its Five Great Goals, the EAO is involved in a variety of cross ministry initiatives led by other ministries.

- **All Seasons Resorts Strategy**. (Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts) The EAO is integrating master development planning and environmental assessment processes for the Juliet Creek project.
- **Mountain Pine Beetle**. (Ministry of Forests and Range) The EAO is supporting the action plan through the timely review of processing plants that trigger environmental assessment thresholds.
- **Asia-Pacific Strategy.** (Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry of Transportation) The EAO is leading a harmonized federal/provincial review of the Deltaport Expansion project and Pacific Gateway Strategy projects. The EAO is working on a timely review of the South Fraser Perimeter Road and is preparing for the review of the Port Mann Bridge project.
- **First Nations.** The EAO is aligning the environmental assessment process with the principles of the New Relationship and is ensuring First Nations are actively engaged in environmental assessment reviews.
- **The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.** The EAO provided the timely review of Olympics-related projects such as the Sea-to-Sky Highway and the Whistler Nordic Centre.

Performance Plan

Goal 1: *Environmental assessment reports and recommendations are comprehensive and timely.*

Environmental assessment reports are based on a thorough review of all relevant issues and include representation of the interests of those affected by a proposed project. This provides the basis for balanced decisions by government on whether a project should proceed and results in decisions that also consider the broader public interest.

Core Business Area: *Project Assessments*

Objective 1: *Applications for environmental assessment certificates are complete and thorough.*

The EAO and other participants in the review work with proponents to identify the information requirements for the application — the information required to assess the potential for environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects. The EAO also assesses the adequacy of proponents' proposed plans for consulting the public and First Nations during the application review. These measures help ensure the proponent's application is complete so the process can proceed in a timely manner.

Strategy: *Provide guidance on the information required in an application for an environmental assessment certificate.*

A thorough and complete environmental assessment application must provide a wide range of detailed information on a project and its potential effects. The EAO ensures that, in advance of applying for an environmental assessment certificate, a proponent develops an acceptable outline of the application and describes the range of data, analyses and reporting it will contain (i.e., Terms of Reference). The EAO convenes multi-disciplinary working groups to assist with this task so that proponents, technical experts, stakeholders and First Nations engage in meaningful discussions to identify potential project issues; set the technical and reporting requirements for the application; determine consultation requirements; and identify any other information required for the future assessment of a project. The Terms of Reference used for an application are approved by the EAO.

Strategy: *Applications for environmental assessments of major projects are screened against Terms of Reference.*

The content of each application submitted by a proponent is screened to make sure it is consistent with the approved Terms of Reference. An application must pass this screening process before the EAO will accept the application and have it distributed by proponents to agencies, First Nations and the public for formal and detailed review. Through this

screening process, the EAO ensures that applications contain the required technical and scientific information, reflect consultations with stakeholders and First Nations, and include information related to any other issues identified.

Performance Measures

Percentage of application reviews within the 180-day legislated timeframe: The British Columbia environmental assessment process has legislated timelines and the EAO monitors whether these timelines are being met. The EAO is proactive in anticipating and scheduling activities. It also encourages consultation during the pre-application stage to ensure that applications contain all required information and projects stay on track to meet schedules and remain within legislated timelines once they enter the application stage. With a detailed and good quality application, the environmental assessment process can readily identify and address the potential impacts of the project, which assists the EAO in meeting the legislated time limits.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Percentage of application reviews within 180 days	90%	90%	90%	90%

Percentage of environmental assessment reports that identify and consider all potential significant effects: EAO assessment reports for Ministers provide the findings of an environmental assessment, a thorough review of all relevant issues, and the basis for balanced decisions by government on whether a project should proceed. The EAO works with proponents to ensure information to assess a project's potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects is identified, collected, and then shared and reviewed by government, First Nations and the public. Through these steps, the EAO ensures assessment reports describe the range of perspectives and issues on a project along with measures developed by a proponent to mitigate potential adverse effects.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Percentage of environmental assessment reports that identify and consider all potential significant environmental, social, economic, heritage and health effects raised during the project review	100%	100%	100%	100%

Objective 2: *Meaningful consultation with First Nations during environmental assessments.*

Government has an obligation to consult with First Nations and, where indicated, accommodate established and asserted Aboriginal rights and title. The EAO engages First Nations in the assessment process to fully understand and report on the potential effects of proposed projects on First Nations interests, and propose ways to address those effects. This enhances the quality of reporting and recommendations to government on whether a project should proceed, and supports consistency and procedural certainty.

Strategy: *Require proponents to develop plans for consultations with First Nations.*

Under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, proponents are directed to engage First Nations early and often in the assessment process. This may include, for example, ongoing meetings with First Nations leadership and community members, site tours and funding for Aboriginal interest and use studies and for capacity to help First Nations interpret the extensive technical information associated with the review of a proposed project.

The EAO also requires proponents to present their proposed First Nations consultation program in writing, evaluates the adequacy of the plan and may recommend additional measures where necessary.

Strategy: *The EAO seeks active First Nations involvement in project reviews.*

The EAO initiates discussions with First Nations governments and their communities to provide information about the environmental assessment process of projects and consults with First Nations to seek input on procedural aspects of specific project reviews. This provides opportunities to incorporate First Nations suggestions on Section 11 procedural orders before they are issued. Discussion between the EAO and First Nations continues throughout the assessment process and includes the opportunity to provide input on proposed baseline studies, the application and draft assessment reports before reports and recommendations are made to government about whether a project should proceed. This open and regular communication facilitates the EAO's ability to identify, understand and address First Nations issues associated with project reviews and to report on First Nations perspectives. It also ensures proponents are considering the potential effects of their projects on First Nations interests.

Performance Measure

Percentage of project assessments with First Nations engaged in working group(s): A primary tool for ensuring thorough and comprehensive environmental assessments is the establishment of technical "working groups." These groups consist of representatives of key federal, provincial and local government agencies, and typically seek active representation from First Nations affected by a project. The direct engagement of First Nations in working groups is the most effective way of building relationships,

identifying First Nations issues, and initiating processes and project design changes that assist in accommodating First Nations rights, title and other project-related issues. Although the EAO cannot control whether First Nations choose to participate in working groups, the office should make every effort to seek their participation. Thus, the percentage of assessments that have First Nations represented on working groups is a key measure of the EAO's ability to successfully identify and address First Nations issues.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Percentage of project assessments with First Nations engaged in working group(s)	New measure	Establish benchmark and targets	Maintain or exceed target	Maintain or exceed target

Goal 2: *The environmental assessment process is clear and streamlined.*

The process managed by the EAO is continually evaluated and refined to ensure that it is easy for proponents to understand, provides effective tools to assist the development of assessment applications and streamlines regulatory requirements wherever possible.

Core Business Area: *Project Assessments*

Objective 1: *The environmental assessment process is easy to follow.*

The EAO seeks to continually improve the environmental assessment process through the development of tools to improve proponents', First Nations, and the public's understanding of the process and assist with the preparation of assessment documentation. Efforts are also made to enhance public information about the environmental assessment process and to provide access to information about project reviews as they proceed.

Strategy: *Develop sector specific guidelines.*

Guidelines related to environmental assessments of proposed mine projects will be developed and tested. These guidelines will consolidate elements of the generic guides on the environmental assessment process and the preparation of Terms of Reference, and will include information that is specific or unique to this sector. Additional sector specific guidelines may be developed where they are needed.

Strategy: *Develop Proponents' Guide to the Environmental Assessment Process.*

Acting on client survey results, the EAO is developing a guide that sets out all the steps in the environmental assessment process and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of all of the parties involved in a project review. This guide will be tested and enhanced as proponent feedback is collected.

Strategy: *Provide tools to help increase public understanding of the environmental assessment process and opportunities to participate in project reviews.*

The EAO continually seeks ways to help increase the public's awareness of the environmental assessment process and ensure that the public and stakeholders are aware of where to find information and opportunities to comment on projects under review.

Performance Measure

Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process: This measure addresses the level of client satisfaction with the environmental assessment process by asking clients to rate the EAO on its delivery of a timely and effective environmental assessment process. This is measured through the Client Satisfaction Survey by asking proponents to rate their overall experience with the EAO on a scale of 1 to 10, regardless of where they are in the process.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Proponents' overall level of satisfaction with the assessment process (on a scale of 1 to 10)	To be determined	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed	Maintain or exceed

Objective 2: *Harmonized federal/provincial assessment processes*

In 2004, British Columbia and Canada renewed the *Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation*. The agreement is designed to achieve government cooperation, efficient and effective use of public and private resources and procedural certainty for participants in the environmental assessment process. The agreement includes specific measures to minimize costly and time-consuming duplication and overlap when a project is subject to provincial and federal assessment legislation.

Strategy: ***Joint federal/provincial environmental assessments meet all requirements of the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation.***

The agreement requires the federal and provincial governments to negotiate workplans for each harmonized environmental assessment and meet any resulting timelines. In some cases, federal assessment processes have unique requirements that mean federal decisions might be made after provincial decisions.

Performance Measure

Percentage of harmonized reviews that meet provincial timelines: The EAO and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) try to anticipate and resolve problems through the EAO/CEAA Harmonization Working Group. This performance measure will demonstrate whether the majority of harmonized project reviews are meeting provincial timelines.

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target	2008/09 Target
Percentage of harmonized federal/ provincial reviews that meet provincial timelines	80%	80%	80%	80%

Environmental Assessment Office Performance Plan Summary

Five Great Goals

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Create more jobs per capita than anywhere else in Canada.

Environmental Assessment Office Mission

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EAO Goals	EAO Objectives	Performance Measures
1. Environmental assessment reports and recommendations are comprehensive and timely	1.1 Applications for environmental assessment certificates are complete and thorough	Percentage of application reviews within 180 days Percentage of environmental assessment reports that identify and consider all potential significant environmental, social, economic, heritage and health effects raised during the project review Percentage of project assessments with First Nations engaged in working group(s)
	1.2 Meaningful consultation with First Nations during environmental assessments	
2. The environmental assessment process is clear and streamlined	2.1 The environmental assessment process is easy to follow	Proponents' overall satisfaction with the assessment process
	2.2 Harmonized federal/provincial assessment processes	Percentage of harmonized federal/provincial reviews that meet provincial timelines

Environmental Assessment Office Performance Plan Summary

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	1.2 Meaningful consultation with First Nations during environmental assessments	
2. The environmental assessment process is clear and streamlined	2.1 The environmental assessment process is easy to follow	Proponents' overall satisfaction with the assessment process
	2.2 Harmonized federal/provincial assessment processes	Percentage of harmonized federal/provincial reviews that meet provincial timelines

Related Initiatives and Planning Processes

Regulatory Reform

The Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office have undertaken significant deregulation and regulatory reform initiatives that aim to ensure British Columbia's regulatory climate enables strong economic growth while maintaining effective environmental standards.

Regulatory reform has been and will continue to be undertaken under each core business area as the Ministry of Environment pursues its shift from a prescriptive to a results-based approach to regulation. For example, the implementation of new regulations and codes of practice under the *Environmental Management Act* and *Integrated Pest Management Act* will reduce regulatory burden, clarify responsibilities and make more efficient use of ministry resources.

Another three-year plan for regulatory reform has been introduced by the government. The ministry will support this initiative by committing to controlling regulatory burden and improving regulatory quality. The cross-government target of a **0% increase** in regulations will be maintained through 2008/09. Over the next three years, the ministry will continue its review of legislation and regulations (e.g., the *Wildlife Act*) and look for opportunities that will shift the ministry's regulations to be more citizen-centred, cost effective, results-based and responsive to our clients by reducing and/or streamlining the steps or processes involved in complying with ministry regulations.

Information Resources Management Plan

Both the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office identify the alignment between information management, information technology and the business requirements in their respective Information Resource Management Plans.

An overview of the Ministry of Environment's Information Resource Management Plan is available on the ministry's website:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2006/irmp.html

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sp/2006/irmp.pdf

An overview of the Environmental Assessment Office's Information Resource Management Plan is available on the EAO's website:

http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/publicat/irmp-05-06/IRMP-05-01-17.pdf

Citizen-Centred Service Delivery

As identified under Goal 5, Objective 1, the ministry is striving to ensure it is a citizen-centred organization. The ministry serves the citizens of British Columbia as well as industry, business, associations, communities, academic and environmental organizations and other government agencies. The ministry is continuing its efforts of providing citizen-centred service by identifying service needs and expectations. To gauge its success, the ministry has introduced a new performance measure to monitor changes in the level of satisfaction with ministry services. The ministry is applying innovative service solutions that support quality services, information accessibility, well-designed and well-managed outreach programs, and parks, fish and wildlife opportunities.

Specific activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The ministry has committed additional financial resources of approximately $20 million to upgrade park facilities over the years 2005/06 - 2007/08.
- The ministry is working with the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) in its Front Counter BC initiative to support that agency's delivery of "single point of contact" services through regional centres, for a number of natural resource ministries and agencies. The ministry's clients will be able to seek information and make application for the use of natural resources through ILMB that are under the jurisdiction of the ministry.
- The ministry has launched the Permit and Authorization Service Bureau that can handle approximately 20,000 applications for park use permits, fish and wildlife permits and commercial licences per year. Applications can be downloaded over the Internet, faxed or mailed into one office.
- The ministry has incorporated new program areas that increase its capacity and responsibilities for the collection, storage and dissemination of scientific information. Through its website, the ministry continues efforts to provide accurate and updated information for British Columbians.
- The ministry will continue to lead, inform, involve and support clients, partners and citizens in environmental protection and management through consultation, outreach programs and shared stewardship.
- The ministry will continue the annual visitors' satisfaction survey for park and campground facilities, and evaluate client satisfaction with fish and wildlife opportunities through a regular hunter/angler survey.

Appendix 1

Legislation Administered by the Ministry of Environment

The following legislation, in alphabetical order, is currently administered by the Ministry of Environment:[6]

Beaver Lodge Lands Trust Renewal Act

Commercial River Rafting Safety Act
(only some sections relating to safety inspections and enforcement remain in force)

Creston Valley Wildlife Act

Dike Maintenance Act

Drainage, Ditch and Dike Act

Ecological Reserve Act

Environmental Assessment Act

Environmental Management Act

Fish Protection Act

Hunting and Fishing Heritage Act

Industrial Operation Compensation Act

Integrated Pest Management Act

Land Title Act (s. 219 only, insofar as it relates to the Portfolio of the Minister)

Ministry of Environment Act (all except s. 4 (2) (d))

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing Act (ss. 3 (3), 5 (b), 6, insofar as they relate to the portfolio of the minister)

Okanagan River Boundaries Settlement Act

Park Act

Protected Areas of British Columbia Act

Skagit Environmental Enhancement Act

Sustainable Environment Fund Act

Water Act

Water Protection Act

Water Utility Act

Wildlife Act

[6] Citations for all Acts and regulations are to the most recent or original versions. Readers are strongly advised to confirm the currency of legislation with appropriate legal research before relying upon these citations as they are frequently amended and are subject to change without notice.